

# The Compassion and Willingness of God

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*"Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. 'I am willing,' He said. 'Be healed'" (Mark 1:41 NLT).*

## I. Jesus is Good News!

- A. In Mark 1:40-41, a leper declares, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus compassionately says, "I am willing!" to all who humble themselves before Him.
- B. In His first sermon, Jesus declared, "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news" (Mark 1:15).
- C. The story of the fishes and loaves (Mark 6:34-44)
  - 1. Jesus is not indifferent. He is purposefully compassionate (Mark 6:34).
  - 2. Jesus delights in using us in our inadequacy to minister compassion to others. "You give them something to eat" (Mark 6:37).
  - 3. Whatever we give in weakness and compassion Jesus can multiply (Mark 6:42-44).
- D. Sometimes we fail to connect Bible stories and testimonies of the compassion and willingness of Jesus to our everyday life.
  - 1. In Mark 8:1-9, Jesus again multiplies food through the disciples.
  - 2. Shortly after this, the disciples could not see how these miracles were connected to the lack of bread in their own boat, their lives (Mark 8:14-21).

## II. Three Key Questions from Mark 8:14-21

- A. "Are your hearts hardened" (Mark 8:17)? Fortunately, hearts can be softened through the supernatural impartation of the Father's love (I Jn. 4:19; Eph. 3:14-21; John 5:19-20).
- B. "Don't you remember" (Mark 8:18-19)?
  - 1. We remember past testimonies to meet our present need.
  - 2. We comfort others with comfort we receive from God (II Cor.1:3-4).
- C. "Do you still not understand" (Mark 8:20-21)? Jesus is absolutely committed to using us to "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers..." (Matthew 10:5-8).

## III. The Beautiful Body of Christ

- A. The Church is the Body of Christ distributing God's gifts to other believers and to the world (I Corinthians 12:7-11).
- B. Our prayers for each other are powerful (James 5:15-18).
- C. "A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment" (Proverbs 18:1 NKJV).
- D. "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity...for there the Lord bestows His blessing..." (Psalm 133).
- E. Without a revelation of the beauty and love of Jesus, we release only a little power (Luke 7:11-15). But with this revelation comes a tenacity from us that moves the heart of the Father to respond (Luke 11:5-13).

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